



December 21, 2010

We would like to welcome our new hire to the American Recruiters family. DJ Amborski has joined us, bringing a wealth of experience in Front-of-House and Jan/San Disposables recruitment. Accordingly, we are excited about the prospects for next year. Please let us know any news you may have of your company, your people, your industry and your customers. Happy Holidays!

The Manitowoc Company Announces Divestiture of its Kysor/Warren Business to Lennox International

The Manitowoc Company, Inc. announced that it has signed a definitive agreement for the divestiture of its Kysor/Warren and Kysor/Warren de Mexico businesses to Lennox International for a value of approximately \$138 million, subject to a post-closing working capital adjustment. Kysor/Warren is a leading producer of refrigerated display merchandisers and systems primarily for retail applications. "Over the last several years, Manitowoc has built a strong portfolio of leading brands serving the commercial foodservice industry, and we believe the value of Kysor/Warren will be better leveraged under Lennox's ownership," said Glen E. Tellock, Manitowoc's chairman and chief executive officer. "In addition, this divestiture will allow us to intensify the focus on our strategic imperatives including greater innovation around our core brands, improving operational efficiencies across our global footprint, and driving organic growth opportunities." Manitowoc will use the net proceeds of approximately \$100 million from this sale to further reduce its secured debt and financial leverage. The transaction, which is expected to close in the first quarter of 2011, is subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals. At the closing of the transaction, employees of Kysor/Warren will transfer to the buyer.

Source: The Manitowoc Company, Inc.

Starbucks Revival is a Credit to Founder Schultz

Howard Schultz has done what many thought impossible, while selling coffee at premium prices, setting high recycling standards and giving part-time staff healthcare. The American coffee chain Starbucks is about to enter its 40th year in an "undeniably healthier" state than ever, according to a Christmas message to employees from chairman Howard Schultz, who quoted an industry analyst's remark: "What a difference two years makes." Schultz, the Brooklyn-born caffeine evangelist who turned Starbucks into a global brand during the 1990s, has executed a remarkable turnaround since seizing back day-to-day management of the chain in early 2008. At the time, Starbucks was struggling under chief executive Jim Donald – it had expanded too fast, sales were dwindling and its once inspirational outlets were looking tired and overpriced. It's not easy to revive a faded consumer brand and many of us felt, at the time, that the Starbucks' phenomenon had fizzled out. Schultz had other ideas – he shut down about 1,000 of the chain's 17,000 outlets, pruned back openings and pulled off a quick succession of tricks. The baristas were retrained to improve service and to inject a little more "theatre" into the coffee-making experience. Starbucks entered the instant coffee market with a supermarket brand called Via. And the company's ambitions were rejigged – Starbucks now aims to open 1,500 stores in China, where annual coffee consumption is a paltry 22 grams per person and hardly anybody has heard of a cappuccino. There are

plenty of Starbucks haters out there. Some lump the chain in with the likes of McDonald's and Walmart as yet another American multinational squashing local traders. But Starbucks is a complicated animal. It charges premium prices rather than undercutting independent traders. It uses Fairtrade produce and has ambitious targets for use of recycled materials. In the US, it's unusual among big employers in providing healthcare to part-time staff. It has succeeded by offering a better quality product than many smaller competitors. Analysts at JP Morgan expect Starbucks's sales to pass \$11bn next year. The shares are up 52% in a year. Austerity or not, Schultz has an amazing knack for persuading us to cough up £3 or more for a Frappuccino.

Source: The Guardian, London

L.B. White Company, Inc. Announces Acquisition of Company

L.B. White Company, Inc. announces that it has been acquired by a group consisting of Jeff Diermeier, Rick Diermeier and Kevin Gagermeier. This acquisition includes L.B. White, PSI Heating Systems and two sister companies that make up Hospitality International, LLC; La Crosse and Carroll Chair Company. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Rick Diermeier is and has served as the company's President and COO since 2004 and Kevin Gagermeier is and has served as Chief Financial Officer since 2007. Jeff Diermeier is the company's new Chairman and is a private investor who was the former Chief Executive Officer of the CFA Institute headquartered in Charlottesville, VA and Chief Investment Officer of UBS Global Asset Management in Chicago, IL. He currently sits on a number of boards including the University of Wisconsin Foundation, Janus Capital Group and the Financial Accounting Foundation. L.B. White was established in 1952 by Lyle White. In 1992, the business was purchased by Tony Wilson from Warren Quinlisk. The PSI and Carroll Chair businesses were acquired by Tony Wilson in the 1990's. Claire Wilson became a part owner of the business more recently. Rick Diermeier stated, "We sincerely thank Tony and Claire Wilson for their hard work and dedication in making this transaction possible. The combined businesses have grown significantly since Tony acquired L.B. White. Each company is well positioned for successful growth in their respective markets. We look forward to continuing the tradition of providing superior products and service to our customers." Kevin Gagermeier added, "As a native of the Coulee Region, I am pleased that L.B. White will retain local ownership as a result of this transaction."

Source: L.B. White Co., Inc.

The Home of the Whopper Cleans House, Laying Off More Than 250 in South Florida

Burger King recently announced 413 layoffs with its Miami headquarters taking the biggest hit. Burger King's new owners continued their purge of headquarters dismissing a large number of workers there in an effort to catch-up with McDonald's in the fast-food wars. The Miami-based company announced 413 dismissals company-wide, including 261 in South Florida. Most of those jobs came from the No. 2 burger chain's headquarters in the Blue Lagoon commercial park. The company refused to say how many people worked at headquarters before the cuts, but in recent years Burger King put the number at between 500 and 700, according to the Beacon Council, Miami-Dade's economic development agency. "It's significant news," said Frank Nero, the Beacon Council's president. "They've told us they remain committed to having a headquarters here. Obviously, a much smaller headquarters." The mass layoffs followed a more precise cut at the top, when seven senior executives lost their jobs in October. Weeks earlier, 3G Capital, a private equity firm with Brazilian backing, acquired Burger King in a \$4 billion deal and took the chain private. The takeover launched speculation that 3G would follow the familiar pattern of private-equity investors: first acquire, then slash costs to make the acquisition easier to sell for a profit in the coming years. "They often will cut deeper than they need to, then go back and fill in [open positions]. It is part of the private-equity way of operating, which is to say that over time companies become bureaucratic," said Ron Paul, president of Technomic, a Chicago consulting firm specializing in the food industry. "It's almost like starting over." Despite the cuts, Burger King wants to keep headquarters (inevitably referred to as "The Home of the Whopper") in Miami. "We are not going to cease being a major corporate presence" in Miami, said Jose Tomas, head of human resources and communications for Burger King. He noted Bernardo Hees, the new CEO, is about to close on a house in the area. "The bottom line is we've been here for 50 years," Tomas said. "We're committed to Miami." Tomas would not describe which jobs were

eliminated, but said the cuts spread across all departments at headquarters and beyond. Though a company statement described the cuts as only 8 percent of the company's South Florida workforce, that comparison included entry-level jobs at Burger King restaurants the chain owns across the region, a spokeswoman said.

Source: Burger King



O'Charley's CFO heads for Cracker Barrel

O'Charley's Inc.'s CFO, Lawrence Hyatt, is leaving the company to perform the same function at Lebanon-based Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. Hyatt will join Cracker Barrel on Jan. 3 as CFO and senior vice president. Hyatt was appointed as Nashville-based O'Charley's CFO in 2004, and also served as its interim CEO from February 2009 through June 2009. "We are pleased to have someone with Larry's extensive experience joining Cracker Barrel," said Cracker Barrel CEO Michael Woodhouse. "His experience as a public company CFO in both the restaurant and retail industries is of great value as we look forward to building on Cracker Barrel's recent successes and positioning the Company for sustained profitable growth." R. Jeffrey Williams, O'Charley's chief accounting officer and corporate controller will serve as interim CFO and treasurer. O'Charley's plans to conduct a search to fill the vacancy, and expects Williams to be a candidate.

Source: Nashville Business Journal

New Appointments at Papa John's

Papa John's International, Inc. announced the promotion of Tony Thompson to Executive Vice President, responsible for overseeing Papa John's North American operations. Thompson will also continue in his role as President, Global PJ Food Service and Research & Development, responsible for leading Quality Control Center Operations, Strategic Supply Chain Management, Research & Development/Quality Assurance and the company's Preferred Marketing Solutions printing and promotions subsidiary. He will report to Papa John's co-Chief Executive Officers, John Schnatter and Jude Thompson (no relation to Tony Thompson). "Tony has done an outstanding job driving efficiencies and improvements throughout our global distribution, quality assurance and supply chain functions," said Jude Thompson, Papa John's President and co-Chief Executive Officer. "Supported by talented and experienced operators in Steve Ritchie and Tim North, we look forward to Tony expanding his leadership to our North American operations teams." Steve Ritchie has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Operations, responsible for leading Papa John's domestic company-owned restaurant operations. Ritchie has served in various capacities of increasing responsibility since joining the Papa John's system in 1996, including Vice President, Global Operations Support & Training since July 2010, responsible for overseeing all aspects of the company's global operations support and training functions. Since 2006, Ritchie has served as Operating Partner for 19-store franchise, Capital Pizza, in the company's Midwest Division. Tim North, Senior Vice President, North American Operations, will lead the brand's growing North American franchise operations, including the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii and Canada. Prior to his appointment as Senior Vice President in 2009, from 2005 to 2009 North served as Papa John's Division Vice President

for the Northeast, overseeing operations for 100 company-owned and nearly 400 franchised units. Both Ritchie and North will report to Tony Thompson.

Source: Papa John's International, Inc.



Performance Food Group Announces Acquisition of Ledyard Company

Performance Food Group has announced the acquisition of Ledyard Company, a broadline foodservice distribution company in Santa Cruz, California. Ledyard Company was established in 1929 as a local distributor of food, equipment and supplies to restaurants and institutions in Central and Northern California. The company provides a complete line of frozen and refrigerated foods, produce and dairy, grocery, janitorial and chemical products, smallwares and tabletop items. Ledyard Company employs approximately 100 associates. Ledyard will become one of the Performance Food Group broadline distribution operating companies, and will be referred to as “PERFORMANCE Foodservice – Ledyard”. George Holm, President and CEO for Performance Food Group, said, “We are pleased to be able to add the Ledyard organization into our family of companies. The addition of Ledyard will allow us to increase our presence on the West Coast. This acquisition brings great opportunities for both organizations.” Mac Pearce, EVP, President and CEO of PERFORMANCE Foodservice, added, “This acquisition displays our commitment to sales growth and our focus on creating new opportunities for our customers centered on enhanced brands and service capabilities.” Richard Fontana, President of Ledyard Company stated, “This is an exciting time for Ledyard. We have been and will continue to be true partners with our operators. Joining the Performance Food Group family supports this commitment, and it represents expanded opportunities for our associates and enhanced service and product offering to our customers.”

Source: Performance Food Group

Group Buys Yum Brand Stores in Kansas

Chalak Mitra Group LLC announced it has purchased 33 Yum Brand restaurants in Illinois, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. The sales price wasn't disclosed in the news release. None of the acquired stores are in the Wichita area. According to the release, current Yum franchisees Manish Patel and Pushpak Patel will lead the management team overseeing the KFC, Taco Bell and Long John Silver's restaurants in the acquired portfolio. Chalak Mitra Group LLC is an affiliate of Dallas-based The Chalak Group Inc., which also has been growing a group of 56 Genghis Grills. A list by The Chalak Group shows it acquired four Yum Brand stores in Kansas. They are in Fort Scott, Pittsburg, Baxter Springs and Gardner. The bulk of the remaining stores it purchased are in Missouri.

Source: Wichita Business Journal

Tim Hortons Signs Multi-Year Deal With NHL

In what can only be described as a natural partnership, Tim Hortons is linking with the National Hockey League in a multi-year partnership. The quick-service restaurant chain, founded in 1964 by NHL hall-of-famer Tim Horton, has signed as the title sponsorship of the 2011 Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic. Also as part of the agreement, Tim Hortons has become the Official Quick Serve Restaurant Coffee, Donut and Breakfast of the NHL in Canada. The 2011 Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic pits the Montreal Canadiens against the Calgary Flames in McMahon Stadium on Feb. 20 in front of more than 40,000 fans with millions more watching on TV. Tim Hortons' title sponsorship involves a number of opportunities, including the chance for Timbits minor hockey players (named for the restaurant's signature donut hole morsels) to participate in the festivities. Tim Hortons has a special connection with hockey, from the company's founder to ongoing support for hockey programs at all levels, says Bill Moir, chief brand marketing officer, Tim Hortons. Prior to this league-wide sponsorship, the restaurant already supported several NHL teams, including the Buffalo Sabres, Columbus Blue Jackets, Detroit Red Wings, Edmonton Oilers, Montreal Canadiens, New York Islanders, Pittsburgh Penguins, Ottawa Senators, Toronto Maple Leafs and Vancouver Canucks. Additional assets as part of the title sponsorship include prominent on-ice brand position, on-air title broadcast rights with the CBC including branded pre-promotion; and integration of the Tim Hortons brand throughout all NHL media properties including NHL.com, NHL Network and NHL Radio. The company also has secured the rights to use league marks for in-store promotion and on Tim Cards.

Source: Media Post News/Marketing Daily

Yum says China will be Top Profit Driver This Year

Yum Brands Inc said China would surpass the United States as the fast-food restaurant operator's top profit generator this year, even as the Chinese market's potential remains largely untapped. Yum has more than 3,700 restaurants, mostly KFC outlets, in China and has a big lead over Western rivals like McDonald's Corp. in the world's fastest-growing major economy. China for years has been Yum's top market for sales growth, and Mark Chu, the company's China president and chief operating officer, said it could one day have more than 20,000 restaurants there. "China, we believe, is still on the ground floor of growth," Yum Chairman and Chief Executive David Novak said at an investor meeting in New York on Wednesday. That said, Yum is not pinning all of its fortunes on China. "We want to become less China dependent over time," said Novak, who added that a combination of newer markets like India and Russia could grow to rival China over time. U.S. restaurant companies have limited opportunities to build new units at home and increasingly are looking overseas for new business. To that end, Yum expects to build 475 new restaurants in China next year and 900 outlets in its other international markets, from Europe to Asia and Africa. Yum, which also operates Pizza Hut and Taco Bell restaurants, now gets about 65 percent of its profits from outside the United States -- where it is struggling to turn around its KFC business -- and sees that figure rising to 75 percent by 2015 as it continues to expand overseas.

Source: International Business Times

Yogurt Mountain Opens Second Self-Serve Frozen-Yogurt Store in Greenville, SC

Yogurt Mountain, LLC, today announced that America's Favorite Yogurt Store™, Yogurt Mountain™, has opened its second store in Greenville, South Carolina, in Cherrydale Corners, 3220 North Pleasantburg Drive, Suite B. The ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Greenville Chamber of Commerce took place on December 9 and marks the grand opening of the new store. Festivities continue with the in-store promotion where customers visiting from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. receive a free 10-ounce yogurt. "Having gotten off to a wonderful start with our first location on Woodruff Road in Greenville, which opened in early November, we are very pleased to be adding a second location," said David Kahn, President and CEO of Yogurt Mountain, LLC. "We are delighted with the favorable reception that we are receiving for our self-serve concept, which gives customers the convenience of build-your-own yogurt and topping combinations galore in a pay-by-the-ounce model. We look forward to being a part of the Cherrydale Corners neighborhood and to serving surrounding communities."

Source: Yogurt Mountain™



KFC Savors Potential in Africa. Yum Brands Unit Plans to Double Number of Outlets on Continent, Where Middle Class Is Growing

After spending two decades introducing fried chicken and pizza to Chinese consumers, Yum Brands Inc. now sees Africa as its next international jewel. By 2014, the Louisville, Ky., restaurant-holding company expects to double its number of KFC outlets in Africa to 1,200. In the next four years, it aims to more than double its revenue on the continent to \$2 billion. "Africa wasn't even on our radar screen 10 years ago, but now we see it exploding with opportunity," says David Novak, Yum's chairman and chief executive officer. The improved political stability of various African governments, the region's vast population and a growing middle class in Africa—where chicken is a dietary staple—led Yum to set its sights on the continent. The first KFC in South Africa opened in 1971 and Yum, whose brands also include Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Long John Silver's, is now branching out into Nigeria, Namibia, Mozambique, Ghana, Zambia and other African countries. American restaurant companies and retailers have been moving into emerging markets as growth in the U.S. and other developed countries has slowed, and Africa is increasingly being added to the list. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. recently offered to buy 51% of South African retail giant Massmart Holdings Ltd. Africa is attractive for Western brands because its resource-rich countries are adding infrastructure while increasingly urbanized areas are creating opportunities for retail development. Approximately 40% of Africans live in urban areas now and the number of households with discretionary income is projected to increase by 50% to 128 million over the next decade, according to a recent study by the McKinsey Global Institute. "People are now focusing on the emerging world, with a bit of a gold rush going on," says Graham Allan, CEO Yum Restaurants International. "A lot of companies, especially Chinese ones, have invested in Africa," Mr. Allan adds. "We share the general view that Africa over the next 10 to 20 years will have massive potential." Of the roughly one billion people in Africa, KFC estimates it currently reaches 180 million.

Source: The Wall Street Journal

Dunkin' Donuts Percolating in Milwaukee

Dunkin' Donuts has signed a multi-unit store-development agreement with the Milwaukee Coffee Brewing Company. The deal entails a plan to open 36 new restaurants in the central and southern parts of Milwaukee. The units will be under the operation of six existing Northeast Dunkin' Donuts franchisees, who are partners of the MCBC. They currently run more than 370 Dunkin' Donuts restaurants in metro and upstate New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut. "Dunkin' Donuts welcomes Milwaukee Coffee Brewing Company to the market," said Grant Benson, CFE, vice president of franchising and market planning, Dunkin' Brands Inc. "As experienced Dunkin' Donuts franchisees, they possess a wealth of knowledge of the brand, and we are thrilled they are expanding their network to a new market." The latest development agreement is part of a strategic growth plan being implemented by Dunkin' Donuts, which includes expansion throughout existing markets and entrance into new cities. The company has opened about 340 locations worldwide this year, with about one-fourth of those in the U.S. Additionally, 72 new domestic development commitments have been signed.

Source: Dunkin' Donuts/QSRWeb.com

CiCi's Taps New Director of Real Estate Services

CiCi's Pizza has named Deb Chappell as its new director of real estate services and support. A 25-year veteran to the restaurant industry, Chappell will secure agreements with multi-unit franchise partners and developers in her new role. The timing of her hiring comes as the Texas-based company actively recruits franchise partners for its plans to expand to 500 units within the next eight to 10 years. Her duties will include building on CiCi's diversity in franchising and continued growth, including in non-traditional locations such as airports, college campuses and military bases. Before joining CiCi's, Chappell led expansion efforts for companies such as Chili's Grill & Bar, Romano's Macaroni Grill and BJ's Restaurants. "Deb's experience and the relationships she's forged with multi-unit franchisees and developers across the country are powerful assets to the CiCi's brand," said CiCi's Pizza CEO Mike Shumsky. "She is key to executing our strategic growth plan."

Source: CiCi's Pizza

Innovation 90 Years in the Making. White Castle Launches Three New Fast Casuals, Hoping at Least One Will Stick with Customers

White Castle is testing a trio of fast-casual restaurant concepts that could help the nation's oldest quick-service burger chain decide whether to branch off in new directions. The Columbus, Ohio-based icon, known for its little hamburgers affectionately dubbed sliders, housed the three new restaurants in rebuilt, redesigned White Castle units. "We created entirely new dining areas and entirely new kitchen areas," says Jamie Richardson, vice president of corporate relations for family-owned White Castle Systems Inc. "In a very real sense, we wanted to build this from the ground up." The new concepts are: **Deckers**, a sandwich shop headlined by triple-decker grilled sandwiches, soups, and salads, located in Lebanon, Tennessee, near Nashville. **Blaze Modern BBQ**, a contemporary barbecue joint that offers slow-cooked meats, updated traditional sides, and imaginative sauces. It is in Lafayette, Indiana, an hour north of Indianapolis. **Laughing Noodle**, featuring various noodle dishes, soups, and upscale salads, in Springfield, Ohio, a community outside Dayton. "All three are off to a great start," Richardson says. "Customers are happy they can come into White Castle and have these other menus available, too." The company's decision to dip its toe in the fast-casual pool is a surprise to some. After all, White Castle, with 422 units, has been a quick-service business since its first restaurant opened nearly 90 years ago. But fast casual has been the one area of restaurant growth in this economy. Customer visits to fast-casual restaurants rose 5 percent for the 12 months ending in August over the same period a year earlier, according to market research firm NPD Group. "Diners have been trading down from full service and trading up from quick service," says Bonnie Riggs, restaurant industry analyst at NPD. Not surprisingly, fast feeders and white tablecloth chefs alike are looking at entering this growth sector, she says. The three new White Castle concepts opened within a two-month period this summer, a move that intrigued restaurant industry observer Dennis Lombardi, executive vice president of foodservice strategies at WD Partners, a retail consulting firm in Dublin, Ohio. "It took a lot more resources to get three going compared to just one," he says. Still, Lombardi applauded White Castle for taking such a bold step. "I am a huge fan of testing, of trying new things," he says. "The real challenge now is to give [the test] the resources and the time necessary to find out if it will work." White Castle certainly can do that. "The good thing is that [the company] is family owned so we can take a long view," Richardson says, adding that two years of research went into developing the new concepts. "The highest hope is continuing to see progress for all our plans." The redeveloped restaurants look like modern White Castle stores outside, but the interiors have bright colors, bold signage, and sleek furniture. All three offer chocolate desserts. "We created entirely new dining areas and entirely new kitchen areas." White Castle has no specific timeline for the concepts going forward, Richardson says. "We are doing this organically, learning as we go along." If just one of the concepts works, the experiment will still be a success, Lombardi says. "It's a way to improve unit economics and put the square footage to better use—to have two different operations where there had been only one. That's obviously a plus."

Source: QSR



Burger King Franchisee Files Chapter 11; Owns 92 Restaurants

The operator of more than 90 Midwestern Burger King restaurants has filed for bankruptcy protection and is seeking buyers. Citing revenue shortfalls and “a constant drain” of capital expenditures ordered by Burger King Corp., Burnsville-based Duke and King Acquisition Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection earlier this month.

The 92-restaurant franchise operator has Burger Kings in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and other states and has already closed five stores, including one in Farmington. If the company’s biggest creditors have it their way, more closures and the ultimate sale of the business are in D&K’s future. Subsidiaries DK Florida Holdings Inc., Duke and King Missouri Holdings Inc., Duke and King Missouri LLC and Duke and King Real Estate LLC also filed for Chapter 11 protection in Minnesota’s U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Incorporated in 2006 for the purchase of 88 Burger King franchises from Bloomington-based Nath Cos. Inc., D&K soon after bought another 24 in Missouri from the Swisshelm Group Inc. The stores required significant capital spending, and D&K said in court documents that it planned in 2007 to buy 66 Burger King stores from Omaha-based Simmonds Restaurant Management Inc. Those restaurants, all in the Des Moines and Omaha areas, were in good condition and would have generated cash to fund the Nath and Swisshelm store improvements, D&K said.

Source: Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal

Lane Cardwell Re-Joins P.F. Chang’s Board of Directors

P.F. Chang’s China Bistro, Inc. announced the appointment of F. Lane Cardwell to its board of directors. Mr. Cardwell, a restaurant industry veteran who brings substantial experience in business strategy and executive leadership, will also serve as a member of the Company’s compensation and executive development committee and nominating and corporate governance committee. “I am thrilled to welcome Lane back to our P.F. Chang’s board of directors. His extensive knowledge about our Company combined with his restaurant industry expertise will further complement and strengthen our board,” said Rick Federico, Chairman and Co-CEO. Mr. Cardwell has over 30 years of experience in the restaurant industry and most recently served as the CEO of Boston Market from June 2009 to October 2010. He previously served as President of Eatzi’s Market and Bakery from 1996 to 1999. Prior to joining Eatzi’s, Mr. Cardwell was Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and a member of the board of directors of Brinker International, Inc. (NYSE: EAT). Mr. Cardwell also served as the interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Famous Dave’s of America, Inc. from December 2007 until April 2008. Mr. Cardwell currently serves as a board member of Shari’s Restaurants, a privately held company. Additionally, Mr. Cardwell previously served as a board member of P.F. Chang’s China Bistro, Inc. from 1999 to 2009.

Source: P.F. Chang’s China Bistro, Inc.

California Pizza Kitchen Opens Third Location in Dubai, UAE

California Pizza Kitchen, Inc. opened its third location in Dubai with franchise partner, Gourmet Gulf Company. The new CPK restaurant is located in the Mall of the Emirates, one of Dubai’s leading leisure,

entertainment and shopping centers. Situated in the heart of what is now deemed 'New Dubai', the mall is home to 516 international brands, including department, fashion, lifestyle, sports, electronics and home furnishing stores. The full-service California Pizza Kitchen is located on the first floor directly across from the mall's major attraction, Ski Dubai, the first, and only, in-door ski resort in the Middle East. The restaurant's large patio offers guests an unobstructed view of the indoor slopes where visitors can ski, snowboard and toboggan. The menu will feature all of the CPK favorites including everything from the popular Original BBQ Chicken Pizza and Spinach Artichoke Dip to Kung Pao Spaghetti and the award-winning Thai Crunch Salad.

Source: California Pizza Kitchen, Inc.,

James M. Myers Joins Jack in the Box Inc. Board of Directors

Jack in the Box Inc. announced the addition of James M. Myers to the company's board of directors, effective December 13, 2010. Myers is president and chief executive officer at PETCO Animal Supplies, Inc., a leading specialty retailer of premium pet food, supplies and services, with more than 1,000 stores in 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Myers joined PETCO in 1990 as vice president and controller and held several leadership roles at the company, most notably in the areas of finance, investor relations and information technology, prior to his election to its board of directors in 2000 and his promotion to CEO in 2004. Prior to joining PETCO, Myers held various positions at the accounting firm KPMG LLP, from 1980 to 1990. Myers also serves on the boards of John Carroll University and the Retail Industry Leaders Association. "Jim has played a pivotal role in guiding PETCO's growth as a leading national specialty retail chain, and he brings a wealth of experience to our board of directors," said Linda A. Lang, chairman, CEO and president of Jack in the Box Inc. "His proven leadership abilities and financial acumen will serve our organization well as we continue to execute our key strategic initiatives, including our growth strategy to expand our Jack in the Box and Qdoba brands."

Source: Jack in the Box Inc.

Auntie Anne's Heads to Japan

There's a new twist to Tokyo's Ikebukuro train station. Auntie Anne's Pretzels recently opened at the location, under the operation of master franchisor AA Japan Co. Ltd. The grand opening marked the biggest international sales day for the company. Auntie Anne's presence in the city was announced through a media blitz, including print, television and blogging campaigns. A media day also was held in mid-November, with a news segment focusing on the brand. The soft pretzel is a very new, and relatively unfamiliar, concept to the Japanese. "The store opening in Japan demonstrates the momentum that can be created around introducing a brand into an international market. The energy and passion of the Japanese team, focus on efficient operations, high foot traffic, and excitement over the product created by active marketing efforts are key components to AA Japan Co. Ltd.'s successful launch," said Mike McCoy, director of franchise development and international operations for the company. Shunsuke Komatsu, director of Revamp Corp. and president of AA Japan Co. Ltd., selected real estate, marketing and store managers for the development of this location, which is the second busiest train station in Japan. AA Japan Co. Ltd. plans to open two additional stores early in 2011. The second Auntie Anne's location will be near Akihabara Station, and the third store will be in Futako-Tamagawa Station. Auntie Anne's locations in Japan are part of a continued push for global expansion. The brand also has recently spread to countries such as Poland and Mexico.

Source: QSRWeb.com



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IHOP Signs Deal to Open 24 New York-Area Eateries

IHOP Corp. is in expansion mode and the omnipresent pancake restaurant has its eye on the Big Apple and environs. The company just signed an agreement with Trihop L.L.C. to build and develop 24 IHOP locations in the metropolitan New York area. With each restaurant averaging 5,000 square feet, the partners will erect an aggregate 120,000 square feet of retail space. In New York, new pancake houses will sprout up in Manhattan and Queens, including a flagship locale in Times Square. In New Jersey, IHOPs will be erected in Bergen, Essex, Morris and Union counties, and the city of Fairfield, Conn., will get new restaurants as well. The development of these traditional-style IHOP family restaurant sites is part of the company's strategy to expand its presence to accommodate existing customers and lure new ones. In November, IHOP opened the doors of its 1,500th location, just one of approximately 60 restaurants that have debuted this year. The company's system-wide retail sales totaled \$2.3 million in 2007, rose to \$2.4 million in 2008 and climbed to \$2.5 million. Somebody's eating. And the company's growth plans show no sign of a slowdown. Last month, IHOP announced a partnership with Aramark that encompasses a two-year test program for the development of five IHOP Express and/or IHOP U prototype restaurants on college campuses across the country. That's just one project. The company's total development pipeline exceeds 300 restaurants. It appears IHOP has a lot on its plate, but the family restaurant chain is not alone. Denny's, which opened its 1,600th restaurant in September, entered the quick-service restaurant market this year with the introduction of its Denny's Café brand with restaurants approximately 3,000 square feet in size.

Source: Commercial Property Executive

Brinker International Announces Executive Changes

Brinker International, the Dallas-based parent of Chili's Grill & Bar, has named Ian Baines to the new position of senior vice president of strategic innovation. Brinker also promoted Carin Stutz to president of its global business development. She replaces John Reale, who had held the post since January 2009 and left the company in November, the latest departure of a top executive from Brinker this year. He was not available for comment. In September, Brinker's chief financial officer, Charles "Chuck" Sonstebly, left to become chief financial officer of Irving-based Michaels Stores Inc. Also on Monday, Dallas-based law firm Hunton & Williams LLP said that Susan J. Sandidge, Brinker's former assistant general counsel, joined its labor and employment practice last week as a senior attorney in Dallas. The recent departures "weren't related, and each had very differing circumstances," said Brinker spokeswoman Maureen Locus. "Our leadership team is pleased to have such a solid bench in place, allowing for transition of these functions without business interruption," she said. Baines, 54, will oversee innovation for Chili's and the renovation of more than 800 company-owned restaurants. He was previously president and chief executive of Orlando-based Smokey Bones Bar & Fire Grill chain and regional vice president of operations for Romano's Macaroni Grill. Brinker sold controlling interest in Romano's in 2008. Stutz, also 54, joined Brinker in June 2009 as senior vice president and chief operating officer of global business development. Later that year, she added senior vice president of strategic operations for global and domestic business to her title.

Source: The Dallas Morning News

If you would like to have news about your company in our newsletter, please send all editorial contributions to Mario Schacher: marioschacher@yahoo.com
Thank you for reading The Global Foodservice E-newsletter from American Recruiters!



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